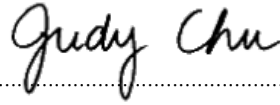


[~117H8177]



(Original Signature of Member)

118TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. _____

To provide an incentive for States to extend child welfare support and services for youth through 21 years of age, and to allow youth to re-enter foster care after attaining 18 years of age, both without regard to the AFDC eligibility of their parents or legal guardians, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Ms. CHU introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee
on _____

A BILL

To provide an incentive for States to extend child welfare support and services for youth through 21 years of age, and to allow youth to re-enter foster care after attaining 18 years of age, both without regard to the AFDC eligibility of their parents or legal guardians, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2 This Act may be cited as the “Increasing Access to
3 Foster Care Through Age 21 Act”.

4 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

5 The Congress finds that each additional year in ex-
6 tended foster care has—

7 (1) significantly increased the probability that
8 youth completed a high school credential by approxi-
9 mately 8 percent;

10 (2) increased their expected probability of en-
11 rolling in college by between 10 percent and 11 per-
12 cent;

13 (3) increased the number of quarters that youth
14 have been employed between their 18th and 21st
15 birthdays;

16 (4) increased the amount of money youth have
17 had in bank accounts by an average of approxi-
18 mately \$404;

19 (5) increased the odds that youth have de-
20 scribed a professional as a source of social support;

21 (6) significantly decreased the amount of money
22 youth have received in need-based public food assist-
23 ance by an average of more than \$700;

24 (7) decreased the odds of having experienced an
25 additional economic hardship between the ages of 17
26 and 21 by approximately 12 percent;

1 (8) decreased the odds of being homeless or
2 couch-surfing between the ages of 17 and 21 by ap-
3 proximately 28 percent;

4 (9) decreased the odds that youth have become
5 pregnant or impregnated a female between the ages
6 of 17 and 21 by approximately 28 percent; and

7 (10) decreased the odds that youth have been
8 arrested between the ages of 17 and 21 by approxi-
9 mately 41 percent and decreased the odds that
10 youth have been convicted of a crime during the
11 same period by approximately 40 percent.

12 **SEC. 3. EXTENDED CHILD WELFARE SUPPORT AND SERV-**
13 **ICES FOR YOUTH TRANSITIONING FROM FOS-**
14 **TER CARE.**

15 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 475(8) of the Social Secu-
16 rity Act (42 U.S.C. 675(8)) is amended—

17 (1) by striking “subparagraph (B)” and insert-
18 ing “subparagraphs (B) and (C)”;

19 (2) by striking subparagraph (B) and inserting
20 the following:

21 “(B) At the option of the State and youth in-
22 volved, the term shall include a youth who is in fos-
23 ter care under the responsibility of the State.”; and

24 (3) by adding at the end the following:

25 “(C) The term shall include a youth—

1 “(i)(I) with respect to whom an adoption
2 assistance agreement is in effect under section
3 473 if the youth had attained 16 years of age
4 before the agreement became effective; or

5 “(II) with respect to whom a kinship
6 guardianship assistance agreement is in effect
7 under section 473(d) if the youth had attained
8 16 years of age before the agreement became
9 effective; and

10 “(ii) who has not attained 19, 20, 21, or
11 22 years of age, as the State may elect.

12 “(D) In this paragraph, the term ‘youth’ means
13 an individual—

14 “(i) who has attained 18 years of age; and

15 “(ii) who has not attained 22 years of
16 age.”.

17 (b) GUIDANCE AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.—The
18 Secretary of Health and Human Services shall provide
19 guidance and technical assistance to States on best prac-
20 tices for outreach to youth who are newly eligible for serv-
21 ices as a result of the enactment of this section.

22 **SEC. 4. PROMOTING THE RE-ENTRY OF YOUTH INTO EX-**
23 **TENDED FOSTER CARE.**

24 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 471(a) of the Social Secu-
25 rity Act (42 U.S.C. 671(a)) is amended—

1 (1) by striking “and” at the end of paragraph
2 (36);

3 (2) by adding “and” at the end of paragraph
4 (37); and

5 (3) by adding at the end the following:

6 “(38) if the State exercises the option provided
7 for in section 475(8), shall—

8 “(A) permit any youth who has attained
9 18 years of age and meets the requirements of
10 section 475(8)(C) to voluntarily re-enter foster
11 care; and

12 “(B) facilitate the voluntary return of any
13 such youth to foster care.”.

14 (b) GUIDANCE AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.—The
15 Secretary of Health and Human Services shall provide
16 guidance and technical assistance to States on best prac-
17 tices for outreach to youth who have left foster care and
18 are otherwise eligible for re-entry into foster care.

19 **SEC. 5. PROVIDING FOR STATES TO IMPROVE OUTCOMES**
20 **FOR TRANSITION-AGED YOUTH AND YOUNG**
21 **ADULTS.**

22 Section 472(a)(1)(B) of the Social Security Act (42
23 U.S.C. 672(a)(1)(B)) is amended by inserting “except in
24 the case of a youth who has attained 18 years of age and

1 meets the requirements of section 475(8)(C),” before “the
2 child”.

3 **SEC. 6. EFFECTIVE DATE.**

4 (a) IN GENERAL.—The amendments made by this
5 Act shall take effect on the 1st day of the 1st fiscal year
6 beginning on or after the date of the enactment of this
7 Act, and shall apply to payments under part E of title
8 IV of the Social Security Act for calendar quarters begin-
9 ning on or after such date.

10 (b) DELAY PERMITTED IF STATE LEGISLATION RE-
11 QUIRED.—If the Secretary of Health and Human Services
12 determines that State legislation (other than legislation
13 appropriating funds) is required in order for a State plan
14 developed pursuant to part E of title IV of the Social Se-
15 curity Act to meet the additional requirements imposed
16 by the amendments made by this Act, the plan shall not
17 be regarded as failing to meet any of the additional re-
18 quirements before the 1st day of the 1st calendar quarter
19 beginning after the first regular session of the State legis-
20 lature that begins after the date of the enactment of this
21 Act. For purposes of the preceding sentence, if the State
22 has a 2-year legislative session, each year of the session
23 is deemed to be a separate regular session of the State
24 legislature.

1 SEC. 7. WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT.

2 Within 90 days after the date of the enactment of
3 this Act, the Secretary of Health and Human Services,
4 through the Administration for Children and Families,
5 shall, in consultation with the Secretary of Labor, develop
6 and issue guidance to State and local agencies operating
7 a program under a State plan approved under part E of
8 title IV of the Social Security Act on how case workers
9 can connect youth eligible for foster care by reason of an
10 amendment made by section 3 or 4 of this Act to work-
11 force development programs under title I of the Workforce
12 Innovation and Opportunity Act.